

Ynet-News, May 17, 2024 – Friday
Possible Abomination Day **May 31** or June 20, 2024
May 31 = 490 dys = 70 wks to Messiah Arrival

5.17. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Omer 19

Bodies of three hostages recovered from the Gaza Strip in a special operation

5.17. 24 – Fr- - - News Placed in May 17 spot – Friday Omer 19

75 rockets fired on Galilee & Golan; MK demands significant damage on Lebanon

5.17. 24 – Fr- - - News – Friday Omer 19

South Africa at UN court seeks to order IDF halt operations in Rafah

5.16. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in May 16 spot – Thursday Omer 18

Egypt rejects Israeli plans for Rafah crossing, future operation must be PA control

5.16. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 18

IDF cleared Zeitoun by December, Hamas returned with thousands of weapons

5.16. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 18

Hezbollah drone attack hit Tiberias IDF base housing surveillance balloons

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Gallant stated that Israel will not rule Gaza; opposing Cabinet & PM

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Arab Teacher suspended after joining Nakba march; 'she is welcome to move to Gaza'

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Biden weapons package for Israel still paused; may ship without heavy bombs

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World wishes happy 76th anniversary of Israel's independence

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13 IDF soldiers injured in Gaza, clearing north & central Gaza schools used by Hamas

5.14. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in May 14 spot – Tuesday Omer 16

Israeli tanks push into built-up, displacing half of east Rafah, 450,000 people

5.13. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 15

WB settlers protested, throwing sacks off aid trucks heading to Gaza

5.13. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 15

Hamas runs internal security service ISS like Stasi, surveilling Gaza citizens

5.13. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in May 13 spot – Monday Omer 15
UN cuts Gaza civilian casualty figures by half, manipulated by the fog of war

5.13. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 15
Tons of watermelon smuggled from PA destroyed for pests, contaminants, pesticide

5.12. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 14
North & South repeated rocket fire as IDF hit 150 terrorist targets in Gaza

5.12. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in May 12 spot – Sunday Omer 14
Ambulance attempts to smuggle eight West Bank people at Jerusalem checkpoint

5.12. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 14
Egypt refuses coordination of aid to Gaza, as vital supplies are getting low

5.11. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in May 11 spot – Saturday Omer 13
Ten fire teams from Galil-Golan station fight fires from Lebanon rocket barrages

5.17. 24 – Fr
Bodies of three hostages recovered from the Gaza Strip in a special operation

5.17. 24 – Fr
Bodies of three hostages were recovered from the Gaza Strip
IDF Spokesperson Rear Admiral announces in a special statement that the bodies of Shani Louk, Amit Buskila, and Itzik Gelenter —abducted by Hamas terrorists from the Nova festival—were recovered from the Gaza Strip in a special operation
Adam Kutub, Yoav Zitun|10:35

IDF Spokesperson Rear Admiral said Friday that the bodies of Shani Louk, Amit Buskila, and Itzik Gelenter were recovered from the Gaza Strip.

The bodies of the three Israelis abducted to Gaza on October 7 from the Nova Music Festival, were returned to Israel in a joint IDF and Shin Bet special operation.

"Amit, Itzik, and Shani were celebrating life at the Nova festival when they were forced to flee. They reached the Mefalsim road, where, according to verified and reliable information, they were brutally murdered by terrorists. Their bodies were then taken to the Gaza Strip," Hagari stated.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu conveyed his condolences following the IDF spokesperson's announcement: "Our hearts are broken over this immense loss. My wife Sara and I mourn with the families. Our hearts stand strong with them in this heavy moment of grief. We will bring back all of our abducted, the dead and the wounded alike. I commend our courageous forces who, in a determined operation, returned sons and daughters to their borders."

The body of 23-year-old Shani Louk, a German citizen, was found days after the terror attack. The abduction of her body garnered extensive coverage in the international media, with images of her body being repeatedly broadcasted lying in a Palestinian vehicle while Gaza residents struck and spat on it. A few days after the abduction, Louk's mother told Bild newspaper in Germany that she received information that Shani was still alive and urged swift action to rescue her. However, at the end of October, the IDF informed her family that she was murdered.

Amit Buskila, 28, from Ashdod, was abducted to the Gaza Strip from the Mefalsim area in the border region after fleeing the Nova festival when Hamas terrorists overran the area. Buskila's friend, Eden Wessely, went searching for her at the party site upon hearing reports of the terrorists' attack. She captured photos that served as evidence in an investigation published by The New York Times on the same day detailing the terror attack.

Itzik Gelenter, 56, from the community of Erez, was abducted to the Gaza Strip on October 7 from the Nova festival.

5.17. 24 – Fr

75 rockets fired on Galilee & Golan; MK demands significant damage on Lebanon

5.17. 24 – Fr

Some 75 rockets fired on Israel's north in several barrages, two lightly wounded Hezbollah launches widespread and coordinated attack, targeting civilian communities and military bases at the Galilee and Golan Heights
Ynetnews|09:08

The IDF reported Friday that some 75 rockets were fired on Israel's north in several barrages, with dozens being intercepted.

Additionally, an Israeli Air Force fighter jet destroyed a Hezbollah launcher in the Yiron area that was poised to fire rockets at Israeli territory.

Two people sustained minor injuries from Hezbollah's rocket fire in the region. The barrage included dozens of rockets launched from the Golan Heights, Mount Dov, and extending to the Western Galilee. The attacks were heavy, widespread, and coordinated. Alerts for a hostile aircraft incursion were also activated in several locations.

Following the rocket sirens in the Merom HaGalil Regional Council area, a house was struck by a rocket, causing damage but no reported injuries. Hezbollah claimed responsibility for the latest barrage targeting the Galilee and the Golan Heights, stating that it fired 50 Katyusha rockets "at a military base" near Katzrin. The terror group also claimed to have targeted another military post in Israel.

The Merom HaGalil Regional Council stated, "We are witnessing an escalation from Hezbollah. The rockets are not only falling near the border but also deeper into the territory. We demand that the IDF escalate its attacks and inflict significant damage on the Lebanese side. We cannot afford to lose control of the north."

Minister for the Development of the Periphery, the Negev and the Galilee, Yitzhak Wasserlauf, criticized the government he is part of, writing on social media, "The cabinet's 'absorption policy' in the north is a disgrace. Tolerating the rocket fire on northern communities and their destruction, on a scale not seen since the establishment of the state, creating a security buffer zone within Israel, turning tens of thousands of Israelis into refugees, destroying families and lives, and eroding Israeli deterrence is a security and political failure." Wasserlauf, responsible for the Galilee, added, "It's time to dissolve the conception cabinet and change the failing policy."

5.17. 24 – Fr

South Africa at UN court seeks to order IDF halt operations in Rafah

5.17. 24 – Fr

Israel to South Africa at UN top court: 700 tunnel shafts found in Rafah, 50 cross into Egypt

Israeli delegation to the International Court of Justice seeks to dissuade UN body from ordering IDF to halt its operations in Gaza's Rafah and bring about a de facto cease-fire; attendee calls 'free Palestine' at Israeli representative
Itamar Eichner, News Agencies|03:06

Israel on Friday countered South Africa's appeal to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague after the top court on Thursday opened two days of hearings into a request asking it to issue additional temporary orders against Israel to require it to halt its military operation in the southern Gaza city of Rafah by forcing a cease-fire.

It is the fourth time South Africa has asked the International Court of Justice for emergency measures since the nation launched proceedings alleging that Israel's military action in its war with Hamas in Gaza amounts to genocide. The court will make the decision on whether to grant South Africa's request within a few days, due to the urgency of the request, Israeli experts believe.

If Israel ignores any new orders, the issue will go to the Security Council, where the US may side with Israel and impose a veto. However, in Jerusalem, there is fear that disobeying the orders to stop the war could further complicate Israel's political situation

vis-à-vis various countries, and especially vis-à-vis important countries such as Great Britain and Germany, and may even cause those countries to consider imposing an arms embargo.

Issuing orders that Israel will not comply with could also greatly increase the chance that the International Criminal Court in The Hague will issue arrest warrants against senior Israeli officials. The Office of the Chief Prosecutor in The Hague is already discussing several open cases against Israel and Hamas and, as far as is known, at least one of them is related to construction in the settlements and one to the war in Gaza.

Ynet learned Wednesday that Israel asked to postpone the hearing in The Hague until next week but the request was rejected by the court and its Lebanese president. The Israeli team includes representatives from the ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, and Defense. The delegation is headed by the Deputy Ombudsman for International Legal Affairs, Dr. Gilad Noam.

In the first months of the war, South Africa appealed to the International Court of Justice and accused Israel of genocide in Gaza. In her renewed application to the court, she asked for orders to be issued in order to "protect against further, serious and irreversible damage to the rights of the Palestinian people within the framework of the Genocide Convention", and "to ensure Israel's compliance with its obligation under the Genocide Convention not to engage in genocide, and to prevent and punish for genocide."

Israeli Justice Ministry official Gilad Noam called South Africa's case, which accuses Israel of violating the Genocide Convention, "completely divorced from facts and circumstances".

"(The case) makes a mockery of the heinous charge of genocide," Noam said. "Israel is engaged in a war it did not want and did not start. It is under attack and is fighting to defend itself and its citizens."

"Hamas has vowed to continue the atrocities of October 7 many times over. Rafah in particular is a focal point for ongoing terrorist activity. Nearly 700 tunnel shafts have been identified in Rafah, from which approximately 50 tunnels cross into Egypt. These tunnels are used by Hamas to supply itself with weapons and ammunition and could potentially be used to smuggle out of Gaza hostages, or Hamas senior operators," Noam told the court.

"At what point do we say enough to South Africa's repeated attempts to exploit the provisional measure procedure of this court in such a vile and cynical manner?" Noam wondered.

"This war, like all wars, is tragic and terrible for Israelis and Palestinians, and it has exacted a terrible human price — but it is not genocide. I can only recall once again that Israel made it clear that if the hostages were released and Hamas were to lay down its arms the hostilities would cease."

"South Africa has asked the court to order the cessation of military operation by Israel in its previous request. The court has not done so. The court is well aware that to do so would mean that 132 hostages would remain to languish in Hamas' tunnels forsaken. It would mean that Hamas would be left unhindered and free to continue its attacks against

Israeli territory and Israeli civilians. It would turn the Genocide Convention into a sword rather than a shield," he added.

Foreign Ministry deputy legal adviser, Tamar Kaplan Turgeman, detailed to the court Israel's humanitarian and medical aid efforts throughout the Strip carried out by the country and the IDF throughout its offensive in Gaza.

"The State of Israel requests the court to reject the request for the modification and indication of provisional measures submitted by the Republic of South Africa," Kaplan Turgeman concluded, after which a woman in the crowd yelled toward her "Liars, liars and free Palestine" before being escorted out of the room.

The court posited a question to Israel asking if it can provide information "about the existing humanitarian conditions in the designated evacuation zones," and how it means to ensure safe passage to these zones alongside humanitarian assistance to all evacuees that are present and are expected to arrive in them.

The ICJ has allowed Israel to answer the court's inquiry by Saturday evening.

5.16. 24 – Th

Egypt rejects Israeli plans for Rafah crossing, future operation must be PA control

5.16. 24 – Th

Egypt rejects Israeli plans for Rafah crossing, sources say

The proposal includes a mechanism for how to manage the crossing after IDF troops withdraw, the security sources say; Egypt insists the crossing should be managed only by Palestinian authorities

Reuters |07:25

Egypt has rejected an Israeli proposal for the two countries to coordinate to re-open the Rafah crossing between Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip, and to manage its future operation, two Egyptian security sources said.

Shin Bet officials presented the plan on a visit to Cairo on Wednesday, amid rising tension between the two countries following Israel's military advance last week into Rafah, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced by war have been sheltering.

The Rafah crossing has been a main conduit for humanitarian aid entering Gaza, and an exit point for medical evacuees from the territory, where a humanitarian crisis has reportedly deepened including a risk of famine. Israel took operational control of the crossing and has said it will not compromise on preventing Hamas having any future role there.

The Israeli proposal included a mechanism for how to manage the crossing after an Israeli withdrawal, the security sources said. Egypt insists the crossing should be managed only by Palestinian authorities, they added.

An Israeli official who requested anonymity said the delegation travelled to Egypt "mainly to discuss matters around Rafah, given recent developments", but declined to elaborate. Egypt's foreign press office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Egypt and Israel have a long-standing peace treaty and security cooperation, but the relationship has come under strain during the Gaza war, especially since the Israeli advance around Rafah.

The two countries traded blame this week for the border crossing closure and resulting blockage of humanitarian relief.

Egypt says Rafah's closure is due solely to the Israeli military operation. It has warned repeatedly that Israel's offensive aims to empty out Gaza by pushing Palestinians into Egypt.

Israeli government spokesperson David Mencer said on Wednesday that Egypt had rejected an Israeli request to open Rafah to Gazan civilians who wish to flee.

The Israeli delegation also discussed stalled negotiations for a ceasefire and hostage release in Gaza during their Cairo visit, but did not convey any new messages, the Egyptian sources said. Egypt has been a mediator in the talks, along with Qatar and the United States.

5.16. 24 – Th

IDF cleared Zeitoun by December, Hamas returned with thousands of weapons

5.16. 24 – Th

After troops withdraw from Zeitoun, commanders say will likely return

'This is the reality in order to defeat Hamas,' senior commander says after forces uncover renewed terror infrastructure in compound housing schools, clinics and sheltering civilians; forces find stocks of food aid taken by terror group

Yoav Zitun|03:00

IDF forces withdrew from the Zeitoun area in Gaza early on Wednesday after operating there in recent days. The military said more than 30 terrorists were killed and a massive amount of ammunition was captured, but five soldiers also died in the fighting and 19 others were wounded while commanders agree there would be a need to return and fight in the city, again. "This is the reality we can expect, if we want to defeat Hamas," they said.

Col. Yair Zukerman, the IDF brigadier who has amassed the most battle experience since the war began said he was amazed at the amounts of weapons and ammunition his soldiers uncovered in the six days of operations.

The IDF operated there in November and December but since then, Hamas returned with a new battalion establishing itself in an area comprising of three schools and two adjacent health clinics, one belonging to UNRWA, surrounded by narrow streets littered by explosive devices, just waiting for the soldiers to return.

Under the cover of thousands of civilians sheltering in the site, Hamas gathered hundreds of terrorists and thousands of weapons including rockets, RPGs, mortar launchers targeting border area communities and even a small weapons production plant. All those were discovered and destroyed by the troops. In total some 120 locations where Hamas had operated were targeted.

The force also found stores of food that was brought into the Strip in humanitarian aid supplies and confiscated by Hamas, providing it to its fighters before allowing the rest to go to the civilians in the areas retaken by the terror group, as a show of governance.

Like in Zeitoun, in Jabalia, where paratroopers have been operating with the support of the Armored Corps. the forces encountered heavy fighting with terrorists and uncovered weapons and ammunition.

The military intends to move the thousands of Hamas fighters from one neighborhood to the next, in the hopes of forcing them into one area.

Hamas has learned much from the IDF offensive, but the forces have also learned a few things. A rapid entry of troops uses the element of surprise to prompt terrorists to escape, leaving their weapons behind. In some cases, the weapons themselves were boobytrapped but the soldiers were aware of that ploy and were able to avoid injury.

5.16. 24 – Th

Hezbollah drone attack hit Tiberias IDF base housing surveillance balloons

5.16. 24 – Th

Sensitive military site hit in Hezbollah drone attack, IDF says

IDF investigating extent of damage caused by drone strike on Air Force facility housing surveillance balloons near Tiberias; IDF conducts 'significant attack' on Hezbollah precision missile production site

Yoav Zitun|00:44

The IDF said on Thursday that a sensitive military site was hit in a Hezbollah drone attack near Tiberias. The military is investigating the extent of the damage to an Air Force surveillance facility in one of the southernmost attacks since October.

Rocket fire and drone attacks continued in the early morning hours on Thursday, targeting the Western and Upper Galilee regions.

On Wednesday, Hezbollah said it launched a swarm of drones targeting part of a surveillance system used by the Israeli Air Force in a military base west of Tiberias, in one of the deepest strikes into Israeli territory since fighting began in October.

According to the military, two suicide drones were launched into the area of Tiberias, one of them was shot down, causing a brushfire, and the other hit an Air Force base housing surveillance balloons. In response, the IDF launched a "significant strike" on a Hezbollah precision-guided missile production facility in the Baalbek region of Lebanon.

The drone strike came a day after Israel assassinated top Hezbollah field commander Hussein Ibrahim Makki in southern Lebanon. The Israeli military said Makki was responsible for attacks against Israeli civilians and territory since the start of hostilities in October.

Hezbollah said on Wednesday that its drone attack came in response to "assassinations" carried out by Israel, but did not specifically mention it was retaliation for Makki's killing.

5.15. 24 – We

Gallant stated that Israel will not rule Gaza; opposing Cabinet & PM

5.15. 24 – We

Israel must state it will not rule over Gaza, Gallant says

Defense Minister calls on the prime minister to make clear to the world and Israelis that there will be no military rule over the Strip; comes under attack from right-wing coalition members and PM

Yael Ciechanover|12:08

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said on Wednesday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu must state clearly that Israel will not rule over Gaza after the war. Netanyahu said earlier that there was no sense to discussing the day after the war calling such talk "Empty words as long as Hamas rules Gaza"

Gallant said a military rule would be "a bad alternative, which is strategically dangerous for Israel." he called on Netanyahu to declare that Israel will not have civilian or military control in the Gaza Strip. "We must make difficult decisions in favor of the national consideration, even if this involves personal and political costs," he said.

The defense minister claimed that the defense establishment presented a plan that Netanyahu refused to discuss. "Since October, I have been raising the issues in the cabinet without a response," he said. "The day after the war will only be achieved by Palestinian control with international support, serving as an alternative to Hamas. This is an Israeli national interest. No decision is also a decision," the Defense Minister said.

"I am not willing to replace Hamas-ruled Gaza with Fatah-ruled Gaza. After the terrible massacre on October 7," Netanyahu said in response to Gallant's comments. "I ordered the destruction of Hamas. The soldiers of the IDF and the security forces are fighting to achieve this goal. As long as Hamas remains intact, no other party will step in to manage Gaza, certainly not the Palestinian Authority. About 80% of the Palestinians in the West Bank support the terrible massacre of October 7. The Palestinian Authority supports and

finances terrorism. Therefore, the first condition to prepare the ground for another party is to eliminate Hamas and do it without excuses," he said.

Far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said Netanyahu should oust Gallant from his ministerial position. "The Defense Minister declared his support for a terror state

5.15.24 – We

Arab Teacher suspended after joining Nakba march; 'she is welcome to move to Gaza'

5.15.24 – We

Teacher suspended after joining Nakba commemoration march; 'she is welcome to move to Gaza'

Elementary school Arabic teacher takes part in event lamenting Israel's establishment; 'Someone who waves a terrorist flag is perhaps an educational figure in Gaza, but not here,' conservative group says

Tamar Trabelsi-Hadad|05:15

An Arabic teacher at an elementary school in the town of Ganei Tikva has been suspended after participating in a Nakba Day march, following complaints from parents and activists.

Shay Glick, CEO of the conservative human rights group Btsalmo, sent a letter to Education Minister Yoav Kisch demanding the dismissal of a teacher. In the letter, Glick cited numerous complaints from parents and students regarding the teacher's participation in what he termed an "incitement event mourning the establishment of the state."

"A teacher is not a robot but an educator of values. Undoubtedly, this teacher undermines the fundamental values of the State of Israel as a Jewish state, severely offends the memory of those who fell in the establishment of the state, and all Israeli citizens," he argued.

"This is a march in which Palestinian flags, which are terrorist flags in every way that matters, are flown. There is no place for this teacher in our education system; she is welcome to move to Gaza.

"We must emphasize that the law clearly states a teacher should be an educational figure. Someone who waves a terrorist flag is perhaps an educational figure in Gaza, but not here."

The Nakba, meaning "catastrophe" in Arabic, refers to the displacement of roughly 700,000 Palestinians that occurred during the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Many Israelis view the Nakba as an inevitable outcome of the Arab states' refusal to accept the 1947 UN partition plan and their subsequent invasion of the nascent state. Meanwhile, Abraham Initiatives, a non-profit promoting Palestinian-Israeli coexistence, criticized the teacher's suspension and called for her to be reinstated.

"The establishment of the State of Israel, which is celebrated on Independence Day, was accompanied by a tragedy of the flight, expulsion and dispossession of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their settlements, most of whom remained outside the borders of the state, with a minority becoming internally displaced persons within Israel," a statement read.

"Marking this tragedy is legitimate and important. In a shared society, Jews and Arabs should learn and know the history as seen through the eyes of the other. Abraham Initiatives calls on the Education Ministry to immediately reinstate the teacher who was illegally suspended from her job at the school. At this stage, quick and courageous work is needed to curb the escalation of racism and hatred in the education system - a curriculum for partnership should be urgently integrated in light of the war."

A spokesperson for the Education Ministry's Central District said, "The ministry views the incident very seriously. The teacher's conduct is contrary to the professional ethical standards expected of an educator. At this stage, the teacher will not return to teaching at the school until the completion of the investigation being conducted within the legal framework of the ministry."

5.15. 24 – We

Biden weapons package for Israel still paused; may ship without heavy bombs

5.15. 24 – We

Biden promotes new \$1 billion weapons package for Israel, without heavy bombs
US officials tell Wall Street Journal president proposed package to Congress with tank ammo, tactical vehicles and mortars but no heavy bombs; Biden announces would veto GOP bill demanding immediate military aid to Israel
Daniel Edelson, New York|01:33

The Biden administration informed Congress that it is promoting a new arms package to Israel worth \$1 billion, U.S. officials told the Wall Street Journal on Wednesday.

The report comes about a week after Washington delayed a shipment of 3,500 heavy bombs and after U.S. President Joe Biden threatened to withhold bombs and mortar shell deliveries from Israel if it launched a large-scale operation in Rafah.

According to the report, the new arms package includes the potential transfer of tank ammunition worth \$700 million, armored tactical vehicles worth \$500 million and mortars worth \$60 million. The administration began reviewing these deals in April and has now passed them on to Congress for review, at the end of which lawmakers will vote on whether to approve or block it.

"We are continuing to send military assistance," national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters Monday. "We have paused a shipment of 2,000-pound bombs because we don't believe they should be dropped in densely populated cities. We are talking to the Israeli government about it."

The State Department is required to notify Congress of plans to sell weapons to other countries over a certain amount. The State Department usually provides information to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committees and the Senate, and then formally notifies Congress.

Last month, the Senate approved an aid package to Israel worth approximately \$26 billion, which includes \$5.2 billion for air defense, \$1 billion for artillery production and billions of dollars for other U.S. weapons systems.

Meanwhile, the White House announced that Biden would veto a bill by House Republicans designed to obligate Washington to transfer military aid to Israel without delay.

The proposal is expected to pass in the Republican-controlled House but is unlikely to succeed in the Democrat-controlled Senate, despite support from several dozen Democratic lawmakers. In response, President Biden has announced he would veto the bill if it passes, indicating the White House's intention to use the delay in arms transfers as a means to influence Israeli government policy. The bill, set for a House vote on Thursday, would allow Congress to withhold funding for the Pentagon and the State Department if Biden fails to comply with the directive.

"The bill is a misguided reaction to a deliberate distortion of the Administration's approach to Israel," the White House said. "The President has been clear: we will always ensure Israel has what it needs to defend itself. Our commitment to Israel is ironclad.

"This bill could raise serious concerns about infringement on the President's authorities under Article II of the Constitution, including his duties as Commander-in-Chief and Chief Executive and his power to conduct foreign relations."

Last week, Biden told CNN in an interview that heavy bombs had led to extensive civilian casualties in the Palestinian enclave. He further indicated that should Israel initiate a major operation in Rafah, he would be unwilling to supply such weaponry.

"Civilians have been killed in Gaza as a consequence of those bombs and other ways in which they go after population centers," Biden said, referring to 2,000-pound bombs that he paused shipments of last week.

"I made it clear that if they go into Rafah — they haven't gone in Rafah yet — if they go into Rafah, I'm not supplying the weapons that have been used historically to deal with Rafah, to deal with the cities, that deal with that problem."

"I've made it clear to Bibi and the war cabinet: They're not going to get our support, if in fact they go on these population centers," Biden added, using Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's nickname.

Biden made the remarks after the IDF launched ground operations on the eastern outskirts of Rafah and seized control of the Rafah crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip which is located outside the city's built-up areas.

Since the president's statement, the IDF has pushed deeper into the southernmost city in the Gaza Strip, and on Tuesday CNN reported that the U.S. administration estimates that Israel has amassed enough soldiers at the edge of the city to advance to a full-scale attack in the coming days. According to the report, senior U.S. officials are uncertain whether Israel has decided to launch such an attack, which would directly contradict Biden's stance.

Meanwhile, Reuters reported based on accounts from Rafah residents that Israeli tanks moved deeper into the eastern parts of the city on Tuesday morning, entering the neighborhoods of Al-Jneina, Al-Salam and Al-Brazil.

However, Israeli officials anticipate that Washington will eventually supply the munitions but will restrict their use in Rafah until the southernmost city in the Gaza Strip is completely evacuated.

Israeli sources, citing discussions with U.S. officials, told Ynet that Washington is seeking a resolution to the impasse over delayed weapon deliveries. The anticipated solution involves Israel receiving the munitions, with specific stipulations prohibiting their use until Rafah, Hamas' last stronghold in Gaza, is evacuated.

Officials indicate that although Washington is not opposed to military action in Rafah in and of itself, it expects an effective evacuation of the city's residents. So far, 540,000 Gazans are believed to have fled the city since the commencement of IDF ground operations there, according to Israeli estimates.

In a CNN report on Tuesday, a Biden administration official discussed the potential for a large-scale attack in Rafah, noting that Israel has not made significant preparations for evacuating over a million Gazans sheltering from fighting there. The official also highlighted the lack of infrastructure for food, hygiene and shelter for civilians.

On Sunday, Blinken remarked that despite the IDF's operations in the eastern outskirts of Rafah, Washington has yet to see an Israeli plan to protect civilians. "We are interested in a plan to protect the civilians, which we have not seen yet, and also in a plan for what will happen in Gaza on the 'day after,'" he said, implicitly criticizing Netanyahu for his reluctance to discuss the matter in depth.

5.14. 24 – Tu

World wishes happy 76th anniversary of Israel's independence

5.14. 24 – Tu

World wishes Israel happy 76th Independence Day

US President Joe Biden and many other international officials send their congratulations for Israel's momentous occasion amid war

Itamar Eichner|14:49

U.S. President Joe Biden sent a special letter to President Isaac Herzog on Tuesday marking Israel's 76th Independence Day. "The United States' commitment to Israel's security is ironclad. It's critical that our countries work together to increase security and peace for Israel and the entire region.," Biden wrote in the letter.

In the opening of the letter, Biden wrote, " The United States is proud of our enduring relationship with Israel. As the first country to recognize Israel as an independent state in 1948, our bonds are underpinned by shared democratic values, common interests, and cultural affinities."

"I look forward to our nations' continuing to work together to forge a brighter future for all our people, I hope that the coming year brings more peace and joy than suffering," he concluded.

Other than the U.S., warm wishes were also sent from India. Indian President Droupadi Murmu wrote on her Twitter account in English and Hebrew: "I join the people of India in conveying our best wishes to President Isaac Herzog, and the people of Israel on the 76th anniversary of Israel's independence."

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry also sent their wishes: "We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Israel on Independence Day! Happy National Day Israel!"

In the Romanian Parliament, ministers stood to the tune of Hatikvah in honor of Israel's Independence Day, which is celebrated in all of Romania's official institutions. The ceremony began with the raising of the Israeli flag outside the parliament building. The foreign ministries of Romania, Sri Lanka, Serbia, and Latvia also sent their warm wishes.

Italian President Sergio Mattarella also sent his congratulations to Herzog. The Foreign Ministry of Paraguay wished: "Happy Independence Day to the people and government of Israel, on the occasion of the 76th anniversary of its independence. We will continue to build a strong alliance for the good of our peoples." Canadian opposition leader Pierre Poilievre also sent his wishes, posting a video on his X account with the caption: "Yom Ha'atzmaut Sameach! Am Yisrael Chai."

Montenegro's Foreign Ministry also conveyed its congratulations for the occasion: "We extend congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel. We appreciate our good bilateral relations and look forward to continue working together on further strengthening of cooperation & dialogue."

5.14. 24 – Tu

13 IDF soldiers injured in Gaza, clearing north & central Gaza schools used by Hamas

5.14. 24 – Tu

IDF: 13 soldiers injured in Gaza, four in serious condition

Military reports soldiers evacuated to the hospital following two separate incidents in the northern and southern parts of the Gaza Strip

Yoav Zitun|11:29

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit reported on Tuesday that 13 soldiers have been injured in two separate incidents in northern and southern Gaza, with four of them being evacuated to the hospital in serious condition.

Three of the soldiers, serving at the Paratroopers Brigade's 202nd Battalion, were injured during engagements against terrorists in the northern part of the Strip. Five other soldiers received moderate injuries in the same incident.

In another incident in the southern part of the Strip, a soldier serving in the Givati Brigade was seriously injured as a result of an explosive charge. Four additional soldiers present in the area were injured and evacuated to the hospital in minor to moderate condition.

Meanwhile, the IDF has issued an evacuation notice to residents of neighborhoods in the northern Gaza Strip. According to the notice, " Hamas and other terrorist organizations are using your lands for terrorist activities and the launching of rockets into Israeli territory, and therefore the IDF will act against them soon."

The IDF and Shin Bet reported earlier on Tuesday they had eliminated 15 terrorists at a United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) school in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. According to the IDF and Shin Bet, the school served as a headquarters for Hamas military commanders and was used for planning and carrying out terrorist operations. It added that at least 10 of the eliminated terrorists were affiliated with Hamas.

5.14. 24 – Tu

Israeli tanks push into built-up, displacing half of east Rafah, 450,000 people

5.14. 24 – Tu

Israeli tanks push into built-up areas in eastern Rafah, residents say

Locals say Israeli forces entered neighborhoods of Al-Jneina, Al-Salam and Al-Brazil; 450,000 people 'forcibly displaced' from Rafah since May 6, UNRWA say; Qatar to continue mediator role between Israel, Hamas, Qatari PM says
Ynet, Reuters|03:35

Israeli tanks pushed deeper into eastern Rafah on Tuesday morning, entering the neighborhoods of Al-Jneina, Al-Salam and Al-Brazil, residents said.

"The tanks advanced this morning west of Salahuddin Road into the Brzail and Jneina neighborhoods. They are in the streets inside the built-up area and there are clashes," one resident told Reuters via a chat app.

The IDF said that "troops continue their operations against terror targets in the area of eastern Rafah and on the Gazan side of the Rafah crossing. IDF troops eliminated several armed terrorist cells in close-quarters encounters on the Gazan side of the Rafah crossing. "In eastern Rafah, IDF troops eliminated a number of terrorists and located weapons. An IAF aircraft struck a terrorist cell that was exiting a launch site. In addition, the IDF struck a launch post from which additional terrorists operated and fired at IDF troops." Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said on Tuesday at an economic forum in Doha that talks over a cease-fire in Gaza have reached a stalemate as Israel's operation in Rafah has sent things backward.

Al-Thani, whose country has mediated heavily between Hamas and Israel throughout the 7-month war, said Qatar will continue its role.

Meanwhile, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said on Tuesday that its estimates that some 450,000 people have been "forcibly displaced" from Rafah since May 6, when IDF forces entered the eastern part of the city,

UNRWA added that "people are dealing with ongoing exhaustion, hunger and fear. No place is safe. An immediate cease-fire is the only hope."

The IDF said on Tuesday that an airstrike on a vehicle in Rafah the day before that killed a Palestinian driver and injured a foreign national, both of whom were employed by the World Health Organization (WHO), occurred in an "active combat zone."

"[A]n initial inquiry conducted indicates that the vehicle was hit in an area declared an active combat zone. The IDF had not been made aware of the route of the vehicle," the army told CNN.

Meanwhile, the International Red Cross and partners are opening a field hospital in southern Gaza on Tuesday to try to meet what it described as "overwhelming" demand for health services since Israel's military operation on Rafah began last week.

Some health clinics have suspended activities while patients and medics have fled from a major hospital as Israel has stepped up bombardments in the southern sliver of Gaza where hundreds of thousands of uprooted people are crowded together.

"People in Gaza are struggling to access the medical care they urgently need due, in part, to the overwhelming demands for health services and the reduced number of functioning health facilities," the International Committee of the Red Cross said. "Doctors and nurses have been working around the clock, but their capacity has been stretched beyond its limit."

Staff at the new facility will be able to treat around 200 people a day and can provide emergency surgical care and manage mass casualties as well as provide pediatric and other services, the ICRC said.

"Medical staff are faced with people arriving with severe injuries, increasing communicable diseases which could lead to potential outbreaks, and complication related to chronic diseases untreated that should have been treated days earlier."

The ICRC will maintain medical supplies to the facility while the Red Cross societies from 11 countries including Canada, Germany, Norway and Japan are providing staff and equipment.

5.13. 24 – Mo

WB settlers protested, throwing sacks off aid trucks heading to Gaza

5.13. 24 – Mo

Protesters ransack aid trucks heading to Gaza

Group of settlers and hostage families says aid should not be delivered to Gaza until hostages returned; human rights activist witnessing events says armed settlers threw sacks of food off trucks while Border Police stood by

Elisha Ben Kimon | 15:09

Protesters opposing the transfer of humanitarian aid into Gaza on Monday, ransacked at least nine trucks, setting one on fire at a border crossing from the West Bank. Three of the protesters were arrested.

U.S. State Department Deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel said the matter was raised with the Israeli government adding that humanitarian assistance into the enclave should not be impeded.

The protesting group made up of West Bank settlers and family members of hostages held by Hamas in Gaza, has argued that as long as Hamas was holding Israeli hostages, humanitarian aid should be withheld.

"The pain and concern for our sons and daughters suffocating in the hands of the murderous captors for long months, while the cabinet has made the terrible decision to continue pampering Yahya Sinwar and the Nukhba terrorists, has prompted us to take this action," the protesting group said.

"For the sake of the soldiers and the hostages, blocking trucks carrying aid is a practical and effective step to shout out that no aid will pass, until every last one of the hostages is returned." They went on to say that pain and anger has grown in the face of the well-oiled machine set up to quietly smuggle aid trucks, unbeknownst to the Israeli citizens. The group had blocked roads and border crossings into the Strip in the past, clashing with police after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered strong measures be taken to ensure the aid can cross into the Strip.

Their sentiments were being expressed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing coalition partners, including National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir who has criticized the provision of aid accusing his fellow ministers of bending to pressure from the U.S.

Sapir Slotzker, a human rights activist who witnessed the event said the trucks traveled through the border crossing near the West Bank city of Hebron for the first time on Monday when settlers and their supporters arrived in their private vehicles. "They climbed on the trucks and threw out thousands of sacks with rice, sugar and instant meals," she said.

"The entire time a very small number of Border Police were on hand but did nothing to stop the destruction. Even when human rights activists who asked them to help, were threatened by knife bearing settlers. Even though the incident began in the morning hours, the troops did not call for reinforcement or attempt to block the settlers, some of whom were minors and some armed."

5.13.24 – Mo

Hamas runs internal security service ISS like Stasi, surveilling Gaza citizens

5.13. 24 – Mo

Hamas runs Stasi like internal security service, surveilling citizens, report
 Israeli intelligence officials provide documents showing force answering directly to
 Sinwar keeping files on some 10,000 Gazans, running network of informants, targeting
 any voices of dissent

Ynet | 11:53

Hamas operated like the Stasi running an internal security service that employed a
 network of informants and retained surveillance records for some 10,000 people, The
 New York Times reported on Monday.

The force, under the leadership of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, worked to quash any
 voices of opposition, the paper said quoting Israeli intelligence officials.

According to documents uncovered by the IDF during the war, the General Security
 Service GSS opened files on people who participated in demonstrations against the
 Hamas rulers and in some cases even surveilled people to determine if they were having
 extra marital affairs.

The paper reported that its correspondents were shown a presentation of 62 slides,
 prepared for Sinwar, according to the intelligence officials, that detailed the workings of
 the force, which showed how far it had penetrated into the lives of Gazan civilians. The
 GSS followed journalists including from foreign outlets, anyone thought to be behaving
 in an immoral fashion and any participants of protests such as the demonstrations against
 the high cost of living in 2019. They considered any political dissent as a threat to the
 Hamas rule.

The Times viewed documents that include seven intelligence files ranging from October
 2016 to August 2023.

“This General Security Service is just like the Stasi of East Germany,” Michael Milshtein,
 a former Israeli military intelligence officer specializing in Palestinian affairs told The
 Times. “You always have an eye on the street.”

5.13. 24 – Mo

UN cuts Gaza civilian casualty figures by half, manipulated by the fog of war

5.13. 24 – Mo

UN cuts Gaza civilian casualty figures by half, without explanation
 UN spokesperson excuses discrepancy as resulting from fog of war; Israeli officials call
 UN group a disgrace after Israel has long contended that the UN agencies rely on false
 Hamas information, spreading the terror group's propaganda

Itamar Eichner|10:40

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) published new figures of civilians killed in Gaza, as the result of Israeli strikes, cutting the previous numbers in half. OCHA gave no explanation for the surprising new count that was released on May 10 just days after the earlier release of much higher figures on May 6 and May 8.

The UN now claims that in total 24,686 people were confirmed killed, including 7,797 children (32%), 4,959 women (20%). Hamas figures claim 35,091 were killed since

OCHA said it was relying on figures provided by the Palestinian health officials in Gaza and that their tally does not include 10,000 people who are unaccounted for, some possibly buried under rubble. In a disclaimer posted on OCHA's website, the organization said it has not been able to produce independent and verified figures.

"The current numbers have been provided by the Ministry of Health or the Government Media Office in Gaza and the Israeli authorities and await further verification. Other yet-to-be verified figures are also sourced," the disclaimer reads.

Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres excused the discrepancies as the result of the fog of war and said OCHA received information from various sources and cross-checked them, updating the figures over time.

Israel has claimed since the early days of the war, that the Hamas health authorities in Gaza were providing the international organization with false figures. "OCHA is a disgrace," said an Israeli official. "They did not even bother to put out an announcement after cutting the number of women and children who had been killed nearly by half."

The Foreign Ministry said the casualty figures claimed by the Hamas terror group and quoted by UN agencies, are inaccurate, manipulated and do not reflect the reality. "We are still waiting for OCHA to own up to the fact that the explosion at the Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza in October, which was blamed on Israel, was the result of a failed rocket launch by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad," the ministry said of an incident that was confirmed by international intelligence agencies and humanitarian organizations not to have been caused by an Israeli strike.

The ministry went on to say that OCHA still had not issued any condemnation of the use of hospital facilities and infrastructure, by Hamas for terrorism or the use of other civilian infrastructure by the terrorists for the same aim.

"All that is consistently ignored by OCHA which has been publishing Hamas propaganda in its reports without any process of verification in what has been proven as a defective and unprofessional methodology. We call on the international community to take OCHA's reports with a grain of salt."

5.13. 24 – Mo

Tons of watermelon smuggled from PA destroyed for pests, contaminants, pesticide

5.13. 24 – Mo

Tons of watermelon smuggled from PA destroyed

Inspectors from the Ministry of Agriculture and Border Police seize a truck smuggling 32 tons of contraband watermelons at a checkpoint near Jerusalem, considered a public health risk; Israeli driver was detained for questioning
Ynet|08:03

Agriculture Ministry inspectors prevented the distribution of 32 tons of watermelons from the Palestinian Authority. The inspectors, in collaboration with Border Police officers, arrived at the Azaim checkpoint, near Jerusalem, and stopped a truck containing the smuggled watermelons.

An initial investigation revealed that the watermelons came from agricultural lands in the Palestinian Authority. The truck driver was an Israeli citizen, a resident of the north, who showed the inspectors a forged shipping document. The investigation found the documents were forged, claiming the agricultural produce was from the Jordan Valley, to evade inspection. The driver was detained for questioning, and legal proceedings have been initiated against him.

The Agriculture Ministry emphasizes that agricultural products entering Israel undergo supervision and inspection at border crossings by the ministry to ensure they do not carry pests, contaminants, pesticide residues, and other substances. Introducing uninspected produce, which does not undergo thorough examination processes, may cause irreversible damage to local agriculture and pose a risk to public health.

The Agriculture Ministry said that the watermelon is a highly sensitive fruit due to the lack of regulation on pesticides in the Palestinian Authority. Additionally, it is unknown whether the watermelons were irrigated with contaminated water. Therefore, all the seized merchandise was destroyed.

5.12. 24 – Su

North & South repeated rocket fire as IDF hit 150 terrorist targets in Gaza

5.12. 24 – Su

Israel's south comes under repeated rocket fire as IDF advances in Gaza
Hostile aircraft alert activated in northern Israel; sirens blare twice within hour in southern Israel's Sderot; IDF continues to advance on Jabaliya, Zeitoun and Rafah
Ynetnews|09:46

Sirens warning of hostile UAV intrusion were activated in northern Israel, while in the south within an hour two rocket sirens were heard in Sderot, as one rocket was intercepted, the other fell in an unpopulated area.

Earlier, a rocket was also fired from Lebanon to the Margaliot area. No injuries or damage were reported. In addition, a rocket siren was also activated in Ashkelon - for the

second time in the past day. Overnight an apartment was severely damaged by a rocket. Three people sustained minor injuries.

Meanwhile, the IDF continues to advance in Jabaliya, Zeitoun, and Rafah, and the military reports that more than 150 terrorist targets were destroyed in the Gaza Strip.

Following the evacuation calls for civilians in Jabaliya to seek shelter in western Gaza City, the IDF initiated an operation overnight, acting on intelligence indicating Hamas' attempts to rebuild its terrorist infrastructure and presence in the area. Before ground forces moved in, Israeli Air Force fighter jets and other aircraft targeted about 30 terror sites, eliminating multiple Hamas terrorists.

Concurrently, based on IDF and Shin Bet intelligence, operations continue in specific zones of eastern Rafah and the Gazan side of the Rafah Crossing. The IDF uncovered and dismantled several tunnel entrances and ready-to-launch rocket platforms aimed at Israel. Moreover, IDF forces intercepted ten armed Hamas terrorists leaving terror facilities, promptly neutralizing them with the help of IAF airstrikes and ground troops.

5.12. 24 – Su

Ambulance attempts to smuggle eight West Bank people at Jerusalem checkpoint

5.12. 24 – Su

Medical emergency workers smuggle Palestinians from West Bank

Two volunteers try to dissuade officers at Jerusalem checkpoint from inspecting private ambulance where eight people were hiding

Elisha Ben Kimon, Liran Tamari|06:29

Two medical volunteers were arrested on Sunday at the Ofer checkpoint near Jerusalem after they attempted to illegally smuggle Palestinians into Israel in a private ambulance.

The two attempted to avoid inspection claiming they were rushing on their way to the site of a traffic accident. Border Police soldiers at the checkpoint refused to allow the ambulance through and instructed the paramedics to open the back door where they found the eight people who did not have a permit to enter Israel.

Footage of the driver refusing to identify himself and arguing with the soldiers

"Since the start of the war in Gaza, over 6,100 Palestinians were arrested attempting to enter Israel without proper permits, including 687 in the past week alone," the police said in a statement.

United Hatzalah said the driver was not working on behalf of the organization when he attempted to transport the Palestinians through the border crossing. "The volunteer has been immediately suspended from all organizational activities," the medical emergency organization said.

5.12. 24 – Su

Egypt refuses coordination of aid to Gaza, as vital supplies are getting low

5.12. 24 – Su

Egypt refuses coordination of aid delivery to Gaza, report
State-affiliated TV says Cairo officials say Israel to blame for deteriorating humanitarian situation in Strip after IDF takes control of Rafah border crossing and operates in city
Lior Ben Ari, Yoav Zitun, Meir Turgeman|01:08

Egypt's state-affiliated news outlet Al-Qahera reported on Saturday the country has refused to coordinate the entry of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip via the Rafah border crossing with Israel. The channel cited a senior Egyptian official saying the IDF's operation in Rafah was "an unacceptable Israeli escalation," adding Egypt places blame on Israel for the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Strip.

The report echoes another one by The New York Times published over the weekend, according to which part of the aid delivery is being delayed by Egypt against the backdrop of tensions with Israel surrounding the operation in Rafah, and the Egyptian concern it will cause a flood of Palestinian refugees heading to northern Sinai.

A senior official at the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) warned that vital supplies like food and medicine are getting low in the Strip and added the recent developments in the war threaten to exacerbate the humanitarian crisis further. "I have never been involved in such a destructive, complex, and unstable situation," he said.

According to the IDF, 300,000 Palestinians have left Rafah since the evacuation of the population from the city began last week, with the beginning of the military's operations in the Rafah crossing and the city's eastern outskirts (which housed 1.3 million residents and displaced Gazans at the start of the war). According to UNRWA only 110,000 people have left.

5.11. 24 – Sa

Ten fire teams from Galil-Golan station fight fires from Lebanon rocket barrages

5.11. 24 – Sa

Hezbollah rockets ignite widespread fires across northern Israel
Direct hits and multiple fires near Highway 90 and Kiryat Shmona following 35 rocket launches from Lebanon; 10 firefighting teams on site; IDF responds with extensive strikes in southern Lebanon, multiple destroying Hezbollah sites
Yoav Zitun, Lior Ben-Ari, Shimon Elbaz, Yair Kraus|05.10.24 | 15:29

About 35 rockets were fired at the northern city of Kiryat Shmona in a series of barrages from Lebanon Friday evening, causing extensive brushfires. The city reported significant damage to property and infrastructure, with dozens of homes and vehicles affected.

Ten firefighting teams from the Galil-Golan station, assisted by crews from other stations in the northern district, are working to extinguish two major fires in open areas.
Large fires in the Galilee following rocket barrages from Lebanon

"The firefighters are working tirelessly to contain the flames along the residential line, while fire alarms continuously sound in the area. The combination of weather conditions and heavy barrages has led to multiple fire sites—a scenario we were prepared for and responded to with reinforced efforts," Fire and Rescue Services North District Commander Assistant Deputy Fire Commissioner Yair Elkayam.

Of the rockets fired at Kiryat Shmona, about 15 were intercepted, causing damages in the area from direct hits. Fires broke out near Highway 90 and close to Kiryat Shmona. Shlomi, 46, a Kiryat Shmona resident who returned to the city this week while his family stayed in Eilat, reported: "This week, there was a significant escalation in Kiryat Shmona with continuous sirens. And this evening, the entire ridge from Kach Junction to the entrance of Kiryat Shmona is ablaze due to rocket impacts. It's time they realize that the north and Kiryat Shmona are in intense warfare, and there is no avoiding an intensification of IDF strikes. Kiryat Shmona before October 7 and Kiryat Shmona today are regrettably not the same city."

The IDF said Friday night it completed a series of strikes on terror targets in the areas of Odaiseh, Khiam, Rab El Thalathine, Deir Siriane, Ayta ash Shab and Mhaibib in southern Lebanon. As part of the strikes, Israeli fighter jets dismantled five Hezbollah military structures, as well as an additional Hezbollah military launch post, from which launches that crossed into northern Israel were fired, the army said. Earlier, Hezbollah-affiliated Lebanese newspaper Al Akhbar reported a series of attacks on the southern Lebanese villages of K farkela, Khiam, Mays al-Jabal, Deir Siriane, Taybeh, Ayta ash Shab and Rab El Thalathine.

Northern Israel has been at war for seven months, with the conflict intensifying over the past week. Three soldiers were killed in combat this week, and the IDF struck nearly 100 targets, eliminating Hezbollah operatives, but the shelling continues. On Monday, Master Sergeant (res.) Dan Kamkagi and Master Sergeant (res.) Nahman Natan Hertz were killed by a suicide drone. On Tuesday, incessant sirens were heard across the northern Galilee region. On Wednesday, Staff Sergeant Haim Sabach was killed by a mortar shell. On Thursday, Hezbollah simultaneously attacked the Upper and Western Galilee.

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Possible Abomination Day **May 31** or June 20, 2024
Pesach Apr 21-28 First-Fruits April 29

5.10. 24 – Fr- - News – Friday Omer 12

14 Gaza rockets strike Be'er Sheva; 35 rockets fired from Lebanon

5.10. 24 – Fr- - News – Friday Omer 12

UN backs PA bid membership; US bill cuts funds to any entity for the PA

5.10. 24 – Fr- - News – Friday Omer 12

War Cabinet votes to expand Rafah operations as IDF encircles city's east

5.10. 24 – Fr- - News Placed in May 10 spot – Friday Omer 12

Spain, Ireland, Slovenia and Malta, & EU countries want 2-State by May 21

5.10. 24 – Fr- - News – Friday Omer 12

South Africa asks for ICJ court measures against Israel over Rafah operation

5.09. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 11

'Bad, bad, bad, decision,' Saban warns Biden he is mistaken to withhold munitions

5.09. 24 – Th- - - News Placed in May 09 spot – Thursday Omer 11

Israel population 9.9 million, 7,247,000 Jewish (73.2%), 2,089,000 Arab (21.1%)

5.09. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 11

Blinken speaks to Congress Friday on Biden halting military aid to Israel

5.09. 24 – Th- - - News – Thursday Omer 11

US Jewish groups criticize Biden halting military aid to rescue hostages

5.08. 24 – We- - - News Placed in May 08 spot – Wednesday Omer 10

Israel needs media to teach all languages the motives within culture conflicts

5.08. 24 – We- - - News – Wednesday Omer 10

Rafah reopens aid; US & UN demand scale down & delay weapons shipments

5.07. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 9

Israel sends Mossad, IDF & Shin Bet to Cairo to join Qatar, US & Hamas in talks

5.07. 24 – Tu- - - News – Tuesday Omer 9

Biden never notified Congress, delays arms shipments to Israel amid internal pressure

5.07. 24 – Tu- - - News Placed in May 07 spot – Tuesday Omer 9

Radical hostage proposal Israel cabinet unanimously cannot accept; talks continue

5.06. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 8

UN proposal to recognize Palestine as a territory would grant all rights of a state

5.06. 24 – Mo- - - News Placed in May 06 spot – Monday Omer 8
IDF enter East Rafah after intense shelling; PA posed pause did not offer Hostages

5.06. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 8
 Hamas accept Egyptian six-week cease-fire designed for refusal by Israel

5.06. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 8
Israel's War Cabinet state their position & approve first phase of Rafah operation

5.06. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 8
IDF strikes Hezbollah base 100 km north after 30 rockets hit Galilee and Golan

5.06. 24 – Mo- - - News – Monday Omer 8
IDF begins evacuation of eastern Rafah Monday, for gradual ground operation

5.05. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 7
 Hamas playing elaborate stall game, dangling 33 hostages for prisoners

5.05. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 7
Biden delayed specific weapons shipments to Israel amid imminent Rafah offensive

5.05. 24 – Su- - - News – Sunday Omer 7
At least 16 Katyusha rockets from Lebanon cause major damage in Kiryat Shmona

5.05. 24 – Su- - - News Placed in May 05 spot – Sunday Omer 7
Knesset law shut foreign media, confiscate broadcast equipment, revoke press passes

5.04. 24 – Sa- - - News Placed in May 04 spot – Saturday Omer 6
 Hamas insists on cease-fire, Israel doubts deal will continue in Egypt Sunday talks

5.04. 24 – Sa- - - News – Saturday Omer 6
 Hamas delegation in Cairo Saturday; Mossad & Shin Bet say deal not received yet